(c) what are the herbal plants which have become extinct due to deforestation;

(d) which are the herbal plants that have been endangered due to deforestation; and

(e) what corrective steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect and propagate endangered species of medicinal plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (d) No assessment has been made regarding loss of herbal plants as a result of deforestation.

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under implementation for "plantation of minor forest produce including medicinal plants". An amount of Rs. 4 crores is proposed to be spent during 1990-1991.

Assistance for Ocean Development

1516. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries which have offered assistance to India for Ocean Development;

(b) the details of the offer made; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark have provided assistance to India for Ocean Development.

(b) (i) The Government of Federal Republic of Germany provided a research vessel Sagar Kanya in 1983 under a long term soft loan agreement. The total cost of the ship was approximately Rs. 31 crores. In addition, the Federal Republic of Germany also provided shipboard equipment costing approximately Rs. 9 crores as a grant.

(ii) Another ship Sagar Sampada was acquired in 1984 for research relating to living resources from Denmark, under a long term agreement with Danish Government. The total cost of the vesel was approximately Rs. 15 crores. The Danish Government has also agreed to finance the purchase of a coastal research vessel under a similar loan agreement. Procurement of this coastal vessel is currently being processed.

(c) Since their acquisition, the two research vessels, Sagar Kanya and Sagar Sampada have been primarily deployed for survey and exploration of non-living and living resources in the Exclusive, Economic Zone (EEZ) of India. Additionally, Sagar Kanya has also been deployed for surveying deep sea nodule occurrences and environmental studies in the Central Indian Ocean as well as survey of resources in the EEZ of friendly countries notably Seychelles, Mauritius and Carribean countries.

Inflow of Authentic Data by NIC for the Planning Process

1517. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Information Centre (NIC) had envisa unhindered inflow of authentic data through its own network from all corners of the country for effective conceptulisation of the Planning process;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed its achievements *vis-a-vis* its goals; if so, the difference between the two; and

(c) what are Government's future plans about the National Informatics Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) No, Sir. NIC had not envisaged unhindred inflow of data from all corners of the country for conceptualisation of the planning process. NIC was set up primarily for creating a science and technology infrastructure for informatics including information format standardisation, software development and setting up of a Computer-communication network called NICNET linking among others the district administrations, State/UT Governments and the civilian departments of the Central Government. NIC is not primarily an information collection agency. Information stored on NICNET is mainly the responsibility of the user organisation and disseminated on the network on the auhorization of the user organisations.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With the completion of NICNET providing computer-communication linkage upto the District level, Government's future plans envisagt a phased expansion of NICNET to the Tehsil level and subsequently to the Block level.

Industries which are using Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) Gases

1518. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some industries in the country use Chlorofluro-carbon (CFC) gases which deplete the Ozone layer of the atmosphere;

(b) if so, what are the details of which industries and their products; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to protect the Ozone layer?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) Cholorobuorocarbons (CFCs) are used in India in refrigeration, air-conditioning, foams, aerosols, electronics and computer industries.

(c) The Government are considering joining the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone leyer.

Export of Defence Goods

1519. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of defence goods exported during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to increase the export of defence goods; and

(c) if so, the efforts made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The value of defence goods exported during the last three years is approximately Rs. 58 crores.

(b) and (c) Government are engaged in the efforts to increase the export of defence goods, such as policy and procedural liberalisations marketing efforts through our missions and by the production agencies and sales publicity measures such as participation in foreign exhibitions, exchange of delegations etc.

Environmental Clearance to Vijayawada Thermal Power Station

1520. DR. NARREDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given environmental clearance for installation of 2 x 210 M.W. Vijayawada Thermal Power Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?